

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A force feedback method for presenting a force sense to an operator by jetting gas or liquid from a nozzle of jetting means according to a position or an orientation of a receiver, wherein the receiver is provided with an inclined side surface unit shaped to be inclined, outward from a center part of the receiver, with respect to an axis line of the receiver, comprising:

~~providing a force to the receiver including a component perpendicular to a jet direction of the gas or the liquid by jetting the gas or the liquid to the incline side surface unit~~
placing a receiver at a predetermined height above a plurality of nozzles arranged on a plane,

selecting a nozzle from among a plurality of candidate nozzles arranged on the plane, the selected nozzle having a smallest distance between the selected nozzle and a center axis of a receiver,

jetting a gas or a liquid from the selected nozzle upon an inclined side surface unit of the receiver to convey a force in a direction perpendicular to a direction of the jetting gas or liquid, wherein

each of the plurality of candidate nozzles is positioned on the plane in an area below an area of the receiver between an inner border of the inclined side surface unit and an outer border of the inclined side surface unit, and

an angle difference between a first direction from each candidate nozzle to the center axis of the receiver and a second direction of a force to be provided to the receiver is equal to or less than a predetermined value, the first direction and the second direction being perpendicular to the direction of the jetting gas or liquid.

2. (Currently Amended) The force feedback method as claimed in ~~claim~~ Claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising the step of:

~~a position or an orientation of positioning~~ the inclined side surface unit ~~is changed~~ according to the position or the orientation of the receiver.

3. (Currently Amended) The force feedback method as claimed in ~~claim~~ Claim 1 or 2, further comprising the step of:

calculating a virtual object according to the position or the orientation of the receiver so as to display a virtual space including the virtual object based on a result of the calculation.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) A force feedback apparatus ~~used for a force feedback method for presenting a force sense to an operator by jetting gas or liquid from a nozzle of jetting means according to a position or an orientation of a receiver~~, comprising:

jetting means for jetting a gas or a liquid from a plurality of nozzles arranged in a plane,

receiver means including an inclined side surface for conveying a force perpendicular to a direction of the jetting gas or liquid, the receiver means placed at a predetermined height above the plane

jet control means for selecting a nozzle from among a plurality of candidate nozzles arranged on the plane and controlling the jetting means for jetting the gas or the liquid from the selected nozzle, the selected nozzle having a smallest distance between the selected nozzle and a center axis of the receiver means, wherein

each of the plurality of candidate nozzles being positioned on the plane in an area below an area of the receiver means between an inner border of the inclined side surface means and an outer border of the inclined side surface means, and

an angle difference between a first direction from each candidate nozzle to the center axis of the receiver means and a second direction of a force to be provided to the receiver is equal to or less than a predetermined value, the first direction and the second direction being perpendicular to the direction of the jetting gas or liquid

~~jet control means for controlling a jet amount or a jet direction of the gas or the liquid jetted from the nozzle of the jetting means according to a position or an orientation of the receiver measured by receiver measurement means that is connected to the force feedback apparatus,~~

~~wherein the receiver is provided with an inclined side surface unit shaped to be inclined, outward from a center part of the receiver, with respect to an axis line of the receiver, and~~

~~the jet control means controls the jetting means so as to jet the gas or the liquid to the inclined side surface unit in order to provide a force, to the receiver, including a component perpendicular to a jet direction of the gas or the liquid.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The force feedback apparatus as claimed in claim 5,
wherein further comprising:

~~the receiver is provided with a deformation mechanism means for changing a position or an orientation of the inclined side surface unit means, the force feedback apparatus further comprising and~~

receiver inclined side surface unit control means for controlling the deformation mechanism according to the position or the orientation of the receiver means measured by [[the]] a receiver measurement unit means.

7. (Currently Amended) The force feedback apparatus as claimed in claim Claim 5 or 6, further comprising:

virtual object calculation means for calculating a virtual object in a virtual space according to the position or the orientation of the receiver means measured by the receiver measurement means[[,]] and causing a virtual object display means to display the virtual space including the virtual object based on a result of the calculation.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium for storing a program for causing a computer to realize ~~functions of~~ a force feedback method ~~apparatus used for a force feedback method for presenting a force sense to an operator by jetting gas or liquid from a nozzle of jetting means according to a position or an orientation of a receiver, the program, when executed by a processor of the computer, causing the computer to function as~~ execute the steps of:

placing a receiver at a predetermined height above a plurality of nozzles arranged on a plane,

selecting a nozzle from among a plurality of candidate nozzles arranged on the plane,
the selected nozzle having a smallest distance between the selected nozzle and a center axis
of a receiver,

jetting a gas or a liquid from the selected nozzle upon an inclined side surface unit of the receiver to convey a force in a direction perpendicular to a direction of the jetting gas or liquid, wherein

each of the plurality of candidate nozzles is positioned on the plane in an area below an area of the receiver between an inner border of the inclined side surface unit and an outer border of the inclined side surface unit, and

an angle difference between a first direction from each candidate nozzle to the center axis of the receiver and a second direction of a force to be provided to the receiver is equal to or less than a predetermined value, the first direction and the second direction being perpendicular to the direction of the jetting gas or liquid

~~jet control means for controlling a jet amount or a jet direction of the gas or the liquid jetted from the nozzle of the jetting means according to a position or an orientation of the receiver measured by receiver measurement means that is connected to the computer,~~

~~wherein the receiver is provided with an inclined side surface unit shaped to be inclined, outward from a center part of the receiver, with respect to an axis line of the receiver, and~~

~~the jet control means controls the jetting means so as to jet the gas or the liquid to the inclined side surface unit in order to provide a force, to the receiver, including a component perpendicular to a jet direction of the gas or the liquid.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium storing a program as claimed in claim 9, wherein the program further causing the computer to execute the steps of:

~~the receiver is provided with a deformation mechanism for changing a position or an orientation of the inclined side surface unit, the program further causing the computer to~~

~~function as receiver side surface unit control means for controlling the deformation mechanism~~ according to the position or the orientation of the receiver measured by [[the]] a receiver measurement unit.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium storing a program as claimed in claim Claim 9 or 10, the program further causing the computer to ~~function as execute the steps of:~~

~~virtual object calculation means for calculating a virtual object in a virtual space according to the position or the orientation of the receiver measured by the receiver measurement means, unit and causing a virtual space display means to display the virtual space including the virtual object based on a result of the calculation.~~

12. (Cancelled).

13. (New) A force feedback method, comprising:

selecting one or more of a plurality of nozzles arranged in a plane;
jetting a gas or a liquid from the selected one or more nozzles upon a center of a receiver to convey a force in a direction of the jetting gas or liquid; and
jetting the gas or the liquid from the selected one or more nozzles upon an inclined side surface of the receiver to convey a force in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the jetting gas or liquid.

14. (New) A force feedback apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of nozzles arranged in a plane, each nozzle to jet a gas or a liquid;

a receiver including a center to convey a force in a direction of the jet gas or liquid and including an inclined side surface to convey a force perpendicular to the direction of the jet gas or liquid; and

a controller to control one or more of the plurality nozzles to jet the gas or the liquid upon the receiver center and the receiver inclined side surface.

15. (New) A computer readable storage medium storing therein a program, which, when executed by a computer processor, causes the computer to execute a force feedback method, comprising the steps of:

selecting one or more of a plurality of nozzles arranged in a plane;
jetting a gas or a liquid from the selected one or more nozzles upon a center of a receiver to convey a force in a direction of the jetting gas or liquid; and
jetting the gas or the liquid from the selected one or more nozzles upon an inclined side surface of the receiver to convey a force in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the jetting gas or liquid.